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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Russia to Stage Three Exercises at Chemical Weapons Depots This Year

Interfax (Moscow), 28 February 2003; in BBC Worldwide Monitoring; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

Several exercises aimed at preventing or reacting to emergencies at Russian chemical weapons depots will be held this year, a source in the government commission for chemical disarmament told Interfax on Friday 28 February. The exercises will be held in Kambarka Udmurt Republic in June, Kizner Udmurt Republic in July and Leonidovka Penza Region in August. The training will involve experts from the federal department for the safe storage and disposal of chemical weapons, the Federal Security Service, the Defense Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. [Full text. No attachment.]

Russian Chemical Weapons Disposal Plant Adds an Extra Shift

ITAR-TASS (Moscow), 26 February 2003; in BBC Worldwide Monitoring; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

The world's largest facility for disposal of chemical weapons in Russia's Volga region has begun a three-shift operation. The press service of Sergey Kiriyenko, chairman of the governmental commission on chemical disarmament, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday 26 February that the plant near the settlement of Gornyy, in Saratov Region, operated its two lines for destruction of the war gas yperite in two shifts after it was launched in December. "By now more than 180 tons of war gases have been liquidated and with the mastering of equipment a possibility of switching to three-shift work has appeared," the press service said. A large group of experts began work at the plant on Wednesday. Vladimir Petrunin, director of the Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology, where technology for scrapping chemical weapons was developed, leads the group. Designers of the technology and specialists of the plant are considering increasing the daily amount of yperite reprocessing. This would allow the destruction of 1 percent (400 tons) of Russia's chemical weaponry by the end of April, specialists say. [Full text. No attachment.]



Russia: Chemical Disarmament Commission to Hold Session in Moscow 6 Mar

Agentstvo Voyennoykh Novostey (Moscow), 26 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20030226000055.

The state commission on chemical disarmament will hold its next session in Moscow on March 6. "There are three main issues on the commission's agenda," a source in the commission told Interfax-Military News Agency. Director General of the Russian Ammunition Agency Zinoviy Pak will sum up results of chemical disarmament in Russia for 2002 and outline prospects of implementing the federal purpose-oriented program "Destruction of Chemical Weapons Stocks in Russia" in 2003. Chief of the federal department for safe stockpiling and scrapping of chemical weapons Valery Kapashin will deliver a report on the protection of storage and scrapping of chemical weapons and progress in the implementation of a joint actions plan aimed at preventing and eliminating possible emergencies at chemical weapons storage and scrapping facilities. State secretary and deputy director general of the Russian Ammunition Agency Vyacheslav Kulebyakin and executive director of the Grazhdansky Klub non-commercial enterprise Vyacheslav Bakayev will speak on the organization of work by federal executive bodies in Russian regions with public and residents of chemical weapons storage and scrapping areas. "The first two issues are traditionally in the center of the state commissions' attention, but the third issue, the work with public and locals, has only been given attention lately. Environmentalist and other public organizations, as well as donor countries of the chemical weapons scrapping program, should be given credit for that," the source added. [Full text. No attachment.]

Russia Destroys More Chemical Weapons at Gornyy Disposal Centre

ITAR-TASS (Moscow), 24 February 2003; in BBC Worldwide Monitoring; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

A total of 170 tons of chemical weapons has been destroyed at the Gornyy chemical disposal facility in Saratov Region. Sergey Nikolayev, the head of the press-service of the presidential envoy to the Volga Federal District and the chairman of the state commission on chemical disarmament Sergey Kiriyyenko, said "the center is working according to regular routine, destroying several tons of toxic agents on a daily basis." The Gornyy disposal facility was launched in mid-December 2002. The destruction of arms is carried out according to Russian technology. A total of 1,160 tons of mustard gas, lewisite and their mixtures is being kept at Gornyy. The plan is to destroy 603 tons of toxic agents this year. The last stage of work aimed at destroying the chemical weapons stored in this arsenal will be completed in 2005. Russia will have completely got rid of the 40,000 tons of toxic agents it has at its disposal by 2012. [Full text. No attachment.]

Parker, APG Manager, to Head New Army Unit; Agency to Oversee Stores of Chemical Weapons

Lane Harvey Brown, Baltimore Sun, 23 February 2003, p8B; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

Michael A. Parker, deputy commander of one of Aberdeen Proving Ground's key commands, has been named acting director of a new Army agency designed to streamline and improve the storage and destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile. The Chemical Materials Agency, a provisional agency expected to become a permanent entity in October, brings destruction and storage functions together under one umbrella, said Mickey Morales, spokesman for the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. Parker has been the program manager for the Pentagon's Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program since its inception in 1997. The ACWA program helped identify and develop alternatives to incineration for chemical weapons disposal at sites in Colorado and Kentucky. Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a Kentucky-based group that monitors the Army's destruction activities, said that "Mr. Parker has earned the respect of federal and local elected officials and community members because he has treated everyone with respect, rather than secrecy or contempt. "We are confident Mr. Parker will maintain his commitment to true community involvement." Parker said combining activities once divided under disparate commands is a positive step for chemical demilitarization. "The CMA brings all the parties under one roof necessary to carry out the mission of the safe storage and elimination of obsolete and aging chemical weapons in the United States," said Parker, adding that he plans to work closely with community members at the nation's eight stockpile sites. "I have learned that establishing and promoting a cooperative working relationship between a broad spectrum of stakeholders can and will yield positive results," he said. Morales said Parker brings experience in research, storage and destruction of chemical weapons to the new job. He also has a good working relationship with communities at the sites. "Mr. Parker has gained the confidence of communities all around the country in his role with the assembled chemical weapons program," Morales said. Parker will retain his role in ACWA, which means he will oversee sites using both incinerators and alternative technologies. "Even sites which now have incinerators can benefit from the kind of honesty and transparency Mr. Parker has established in the ACWA program," said Brenda Lindell of the Anniston, Ala., group Families Concerned About Nerve Gas Incineration. The agency's creation is part of a reorganization of the chemical demilitarization program ordered in January by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. The Army's stockpiles are located in Tooele, Utah; Pine Bluff, Ark.;





Anniston, Ala; Pueblo, Colo., Richmond, Ky.; Newport, Ind.; and Aberdeen, where destruction of the mustard agent stocks is scheduled to begin next month. Morales said the Army has destroyed 8,082 tons of chemical agent, more than 25 percent of the original stockpile. [Full text. No attachment.]

Guatemala Ratifies the CWC

Press Release No. 5, OPCW, 18 February 2003, www.opcw.org.

Guatemala deposited its instrument of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 12 February 2003. Thirty days after the deposit of its instrument of accession, on 14 March 2003, Guatemala will become the 150th State Party to the Convention. The United Nations has included the Chemical Weapons Convention in the group of 25 "core treaties", which each U.N. Member State is urged to ratify to ensure peace and security for all. Since the Convention entered into force in 1997, over three-quarters of the United Nations' Member States have joined the OPCW. Of the remaining 44 States that are not as yet Member States, 25 States have signed, but await ratification of the Convention. A further 19 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention, remaining entirely outside the global ban on chemical weapons. Guatemala's ratification of this key disarmament instrument, banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, has brought North, South and Central America and the Caribbean much closer to the goal of universal membership within that region. In the past six months, the Organisation's membership has been expanded by the accession or ratification of five new States Parties: St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Thailand, Palau and Guatemala. The growth in the Organisation's membership confirms the universal validity of multilateral instruments banning chemical weapons. [Full text. No attachment.]

Palau Joins the CWC

Press Release No. 4, OPCW, 14 February 2003, www.opcw.org

Palau deposited its instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 3 February 2003. Palau will become the 149th State Party to the Convention on 5 March 2003, thirty days after the deposit of its instrument of accession. Palau is also the 10th member of the Pacific Islands Forum to join the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), following Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. In the past five months, the Organisation's membership has been expanded by the accession or ratification of four new States Parties: Palau, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa and Thailand. The growth in the Organisation's membership confirms the universal validity of multilateral instruments banning chemical weapons. With Palau's accession, there are only 19 States that have not signed the Convention and remain, therefore, entirely outside the global ban on chemical weapons. Twenty-six States have signed but have yet to ratify the Convention. [Full text. No attachment.]

COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Kazakhstan Calls for Complete Ban on Nuclear Tests

Interfax-Kazakhstan (Almaty), 27 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20030227000174.

Taking into account the rising tension around Iraq and the Korean peninsula, Kazakhstan advocates the earliest possible and complete ban on nuclear tests, the director of the department of multilateral cooperation of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry, Yerzhan Kazykhanov, has said. "The earliest possible introduction of a complete ban on nuclear tests is a necessary condition for creating an atmosphere of trust in contemporary international relations," he said in his speech at the international conference on the challenges and threats to security in the first decade of the 21st century, held in [former Kazakh capital] Almaty on 27 February. Moreover, Kazykhanov said that Kazakhstan is paying particular attention to peacekeeping in Central Asia, and is interested in signing an agreement on creating a nuclear-free zone in the region. "The creation of a nuclear-free zone would be an important contribution of our region to the world efforts in disarmament and weapons control," he noted. Kazykhanov stressed that Kazakhstan, where the Baykonur space launching site [southern Kazakh Kyzyl-Orda Region] is situated, realizes the destructive consequences which the militarization of space can have. "We think that the negotiations on preventing an arms race in space must be started without any delay," he noted. According to Kazykhanov, Kazakhstan thinks that it is also important to continue "more effectively" work on preventing an excessive accumulation of the illegal world trade in small arms. "We must not ignore the alarming fact that 55 percent of the known world reserves of small arms, which amounts to 300 million arms, is currently in private hands," the Kazakh Foreign Ministry representative said. [Full text. No attachment.]





United States Urged to Sign Nuclear Treaty

Ole Damkjaer, Berlingske Tidende (Copenhagen), 23 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID EUP20030224000468, "Danish Foreign Minister Urges US Sign Nuclear Test Ban Treaty."

UN treaties against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are not being complied with. This should be rectified, according to Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller, who stressed that the United States should sign the nuclear test ban treaty. "We want the test ban treaty to take effect quickly. This will require the approval of the United States, among others," the Foreign Minister states, with reference to the US refusal to sign the treaty in 1996. [\[Click here for full text.\]](#)

MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR)

Russia Not Over-Dramatizing North Korea's Missile Test Launch

Interfax, 25 February 2003, www.interfax.ru.

Russia does not consider North Korea's test launch of the Silkworm missile on Monday a violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). "We do not see anything threatening in those tests," a high-ranking source with the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Tuesday. "North Korea has not violated any regimes, including the MTCR," the diplomat said. At the same time, he admitted that "from the political viewpoint, the present moment is quite delicate." Observers have pointed out that North Korea conducted the missile test on the day south Korea was to see the inauguration of its new president, Ro Moo-hyun. Pyongyang announced its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the beginning of the year, which has caused serious concerns in the international community. The Japanese government on Tuesday confirmed that a Chinese-made Silkworm missile, with a range of 100km, was launched from North Korean territory. The missile fell in the Sea of Japan 60km off the coast of the Korean Peninsula. The Russian Foreign Ministry will shortly release an official comment on this account, the diplomat said. [\[Full text. No attachment.\]](#)

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

S. Korea Asks North to Return to NPT, Follow Safeguard Accords

Japan Economic Newswire, 28 February 2003; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

South Korea expressed 'deep worry and regret' Friday over North Korea's reactivating of a mothballed nuclear reactor and urged the North to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to abide by nuclear safeguard agreements. 'The reactivation of a 5-megawatt reactor runs contrary to nuclear nonproliferation efforts being made by the international community, as well as to preserving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,' according to a statement released by the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry. The statement urged the North to reverse its decision, announced on Jan. 10, to pull out of the NPT, a nuclear arms control pact, and also to fully implement obligations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The restart of the graphite-moderated nuclear reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex, about 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, allows the North to convert unused uranium fuel rods into plutonium for nuclear weapons fuel. Experts estimate that the reactor would take about a year to produce plutonium needed for a nuclear bomb. The nuclear crisis was sparked last October when the United States said Pyongyang had admitted to developing a secret program to enrich uranium for possible use in weapons in violation of a 1994 accord with the U.S. and various international commitments. Under the 1994 accord, Pyongyang agreed to freeze its plutonium-based nuclear program in exchange for two light-water nuclear power reactors and fuel oil deliveries. After the U.S.-led cutoff of oil supply, energy-hungry North Korea said it would resume operations of its nuclear facilities frozen under the 1994 pact, a move followed by the removal of IAEA seals and surveillance equipment there, the expulsion of IAEA inspectors and withdrawal from the NPT. The IAEA, the Geneva-based nuclear watchdog, referred the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council earlier this month, accusing the North of 'noncompliance' in its nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA. [\[Full text. No attachment.\]](#)





Seoul Trying to Confirm Reports North Restarted Nuclear Plant

Japan Economic Newswire, 26 February 2003; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

South Korea is trying to confirm overseas reports that North Korea has restarted its nuclear reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex, Yonhap News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, reported Thursday. 'The North appears to have put the reactor back into operation. We are trying to get final confirmation on that,' Yonhap quoted a government official as saying. The *Asahi Shimbun* in Japan reported in its Thursday edition that North Korea resumed operation of the 5,000-kilowatt reactor. Other media also reported that the United States said the North has reactivated the reactor. The reactor was frozen under a 1994 agreement with the U.S., which was designed to provide the energy-hungry North with two light-water nuclear reactors suitable for producing electricity and an oil supply. The official said it would be regrettable if the reports are confirmed as accurate and said Pyongyang should refrain from activities that could exacerbate the already tense situation on the Korean Peninsula, Yonhap reported. But the official said the South Korean government would 'deal with the issue in a calm manner.' The Yongbyon nuclear complex is about 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang. It contains a stockpile of 8,000 nuclear fuel rods that could reportedly be used to produce weapons-grade plutonium. The nuclear impasse erupted last October, when the U.S. said North Korea had admitted to running a program to enrich uranium for possible use in weapons. The North declared Jan. 10 its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a global nuclear arms control treaty. That move followed Pyongyang's announcement of its resumption of operations at its nuclear facilities, the removal of seals and surveillance equipment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) there and the expulsion of IAEA inspectors. [Full text. No attachment.]

Agreement Paves Way for Final Draft

Star Online (Malaysia), 25 February 2003, www.thestar.com.

An agreement was finally reached on the last contentious paragraph on North Korea yesterday, paving the way for the draft final document of the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit to be adopted today. Consensus on the paragraph, which was one of three with specific reference to the country, could not be reached by political committee yesterday and was sent back to the working group for negotiations. Delegates said all three paragraphs had been agreed upon earlier by their respective working groups, which were made up of representatives from "interested" countries, including North Korea. The controversial paragraph originally included specific mention on the importance of North Korea remaining a party of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, the final draft, which was ultimately accepted by the working group, was watered down to state that the heads of state and government parties to the NPT "noted" the withdrawal of North Korea from the treaty. It also said they "expressed the view that the parties directly concerned resolve through dialogue and negotiations all issues related to the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the NPT as an expression of goodwill." The working group of around 30 delegates, which included representatives from Chile, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and North Korea, took around one-and-a-half hours for consensus to be reached. Later, both the political, and the social and economic committees met and adopted their portions of the draft final document which included the amended paragraph. It will be presented to the heads of state or government for adoption today. The approval by the two committees also meant that the paragraphs on terrorism, which were another source of disagreement, were accepted by the political committee without any problem. [Full text. No attachment.]





Iran Agrees to Provide Early Design Information of Nuclear Facilities: IAEA Director General ElBaradei Meets with President Khatami

WorldAtom Staff Report, IAEA, 25 February 2003, www.iaea.org/worldatom

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei visited a uranium enrichment plant under construction at Natanz, including a gas centrifuge plant, during his 21-22 February trip to Iran. During ElBaradei's trip, the Iranian government committed itself to an additional legal obligation requiring the early provision of design information. "the Iranian Government has agreed to provide us as of now with early design information on any of its new nuclear facilities." ElBaradei also called upon the Iranian government to provide the IAEA with additional inspection authority for verification of the country's expanding nuclear program by concluding the Additional Protocol agreement (INFCIRC 540). "The Additional Protocol would enable us to provide more comprehensive assurances," said ElBaradei, "about the peaceful nature of a country's nuclear program, especially regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities." Iran announced in September 2002 that it had plans to build a 6000 Mwe capacity of nuclear power in the next 20 years. During the visit, Iran provided the IAEA with information of its nuclear fuel cycle plans.

[\[Click here for full text.\]](#)

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Millions of Landmines Destroyed

Associated Press, St. John's Telegram, 28 February 2003, pA10; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

About 30 million landmines have been destroyed since a global ban on the weapons went into force in Ottawa four years ago, the diplomat heading a treaty conference said Thursday. "We will all have reason to celebrate," Belgian Ambassador Jean Lint told the Conference on Disarmament, the world's main body for negotiating treaties to curb the use of arms. Under the terms of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the initial 45 signatories are meant to destroy all their stockpiles by the fourth anniversary of its entry into force -- which is Saturday. Already 44 countries -- including Britain, France, Germany and Japan -- have promised to meet the deadline, Lint said. Only Turkmenistan has yet to provide such assurances. "The compliance rate for the convention is extremely impressive," he said. Although the United States, China and Russia are still hanging back, a total 131 states have now signed the convention, Lint said. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in having the treaty approved in Ottawa, welcomed the progress. "This is a truly remarkable achievement," said Susan Walker, a representative of the campaign. "These weapons will never, ever threaten to take life or limb of an innocent civilian." Among the biggest stockpiles destroyed so far have been Italy's 7.1 million and Switzerland's 3.9 million, followed by Britain's 2.1 million, Germany's 1.7 million, France's 1.1 million and Japan's 985,089. Peter Herby, head of the mines unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said many disarmament treaties take decades to implement. "Here we have a convention that entered into force faster than any arms-related treaty in history," Herby said. While stockpiles have to be destroyed within four years of a country's joining the convention, the deadline is 10 years for the much more difficult and dangerous challenge of clearing minefields. Among countries that signed up later, Afghanistan reported it has already eliminated 70,000 mines from its stockpiles. Countries recently involved in conflict include Bosnia-Herzegovina (532,556 mines destroyed), Croatia (205,749), Macedonia (38,871) and Slovenia (168,698). Walker said new casualties have been reported in 69 countries, most of them from mines left over from old wars. Campaigners have estimated there are 100 million landmines deployed worldwide. [Full text. No attachment.]





STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE REDUCTION TREATY (SORT/MOSCOW TREATY)

Senator Says Russia May Ratify Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty by Summer

Andrei Suzahnsky, ITAR-TASS (Moscow), 28 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20030228000099.

Russian can ratify the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty by next summer, the Chairman of the Federation Council's International Affairs Committee, Mikhail Margelov said, referring to the talks he had with U.S. congress leaders. The ratification of the Moscow Treaty will "allow us to end the era of bilateral relations when we counted each other's warheads" and boost dialogue to a new strategic level, the Russian legislator said. [Full text. No attachment.]

Russian-US Talks Focus on Nonproliferation, Arms Treaty

ITAR-TASS (Moscow), 24 February 2003; in BBC Worldwide Monitoring; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

Russia-US consultations focused on strategic stability and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Russia was represented by Deputy Foreign Ministry Georgiy Mamedov and the US by Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton. Mamedov and Bolton also discussed the ratification of the Russian-US Strategic Offensive Arms Reductions Treaty, informed sources told ITAR-TASS today. Earlier, US Presidential National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told ITAR-TASS that the White House hopes for the ratification of the treaty by Congress as soon as possible. She expressed confidence that the treaty will be ratified soon. The consultations touched on the implementation of the G8 Global Partnership. The program envisages attracting investments in order to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, including in Russia. Mamedov and Bolton are expected to consider Russia-Iran nuclear cooperation. [Full text. No attachment.]

UNMOVIC/IRAQ

Iraq: U.S./U.K./Spain Draft Resolution

Released by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, 24 February 2003; accessed via www.state.gov.

On 24 February 2003, the United Kingdom tabled a draft resolution, co-sponsored by the United States and Spain, on how the UN Security Council should respond to continued Iraqi non-compliance with UNSC Resolution 1441.

[\[Click here for full text.\]](#)

Ukraine Denies Selling Rocket Engines to Iraq

Interfax-Ukraine (Kiev), 28 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20030228000162.

Ukraine has denied allegations published in *The Guardian* that it sold Iraq engines for its Al Samoud-2 missiles. The state secretary to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Yuriy Serheyev, said this at the Foreign Ministry's press club today, while answering questions from journalists. "We cannot view such accusations as anything other than just another attempt to shift onto our country the responsibility for the actions of those who were really involved in violations of the sanctions against Iraq," Serheyev said. He added that Ukraine has never manufactured such engines. "Those engines have never been manufactured; also, the existing system of export control makes it impossible to transit such a number of engines through Ukraine without permission," he said. Serheyev stressed that Ukraine has complied and continues to comply with all of the UN Security Council's resolutions in relation to Iraq. "It's a pity that such a well-known newspaper as *The Guardian* risks its prestige in pursuit of cheap sensations," Serheyev said. [Full text. No attachment.]





U.N. Inspectors Verify Iraqi Destruction of Biological Weapons

Associated Press, 27 February 2003; in The Star (Malaysia), www.staronline.com.

South African disarmament experts visiting Iraq said Thursday they are convinced Iraq is doing its best to disarm, and appealed to the U.N. Security Council to give weapons inspections more time to work before authorizing war. "It's clear there is movement on the whole issue of weapons of mass destruction," South Africa's deputy foreign minister, Aziz Pahad, said at a news conference. "Clearly (the inspection regime) is working, and if it's working why stop it?" The South African team has been in Baghdad since Sunday night to share its experience in verifiably destroying its programs to produce weapons of mass destruction. It was to leave Friday morning. Pahad said the team had "full, frank discussions. We've been given quite considerable documentation. No questions we wanted to ask were not answered." He declined to discuss the documents provided, and said he didn't know if they were the same documents given to U.N. weapons inspectors. Iraq this week has provided six letters that chief inspector Hans Blix had sought. Pahad said he didn't know why weapons inspectors have been so suspicious of Iraq's efforts to disarm, yet inspectors at the time praised South Africa's voluntary destruction of weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s. He said only that there was little trust on either the U.N. or the Iraqi side. "The Iraqi side has consistently told us that every time they move on an issue, the goalpost gets changed," he said. U.N. weapons inspectors, meanwhile, returned to a pit near the town of al-Aziziya, 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Baghdad, that Iraq opened in an effort to prove that it destroyed R-400 bombs containing biological weapons there in 1991, Iraq said. The inspectors took samples from metal fragments at the site to check whether they did come from destroyed biological weapons. [\[Click here for full text.\]](#)

U.N. Inspectors Visit Six Sites in Iraq

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 27 February 2003; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors visited six sites and facilities in Iraq on Thursday, the Iraqi directorate for cooperating with the inspectors said. A team of experts, specialized in biological weapons, visited the disposal site al-Asisiya, 100 kilometers south of Baghdad, for the fourth consecutive time. Iraqi sources said they had destroyed 157 R-400 aerial bombs containing anthrax, botulinum and aflatoxin at the site in 1991. However, Iraqi claims to have destroyed large amounts of biological and chemical weapons are controversial and U.N. inspectors have demanded proof. Iraq has said that it does not have any documentation to uphold the alleged destruction. Since February 19, the Iraqis have been digging for remains of R-400 bombs and taking samples of the soil in al-Asisiya to verify their claims. UNMOVIC and IAEA inspectors visited another private office in Baghdad for missile construction Thursday, a veterinary facility in al-Taji, 20 kilometers north of Baghdad and al-Muthana, a former chemical weapons factory near Samarra, about 100 kilometers northwest of Baghdad. [Full text. No attachment.]

Baghdad Leads Team to Weapon; Iraq's 'Anthrax' Bomb

John Ingham and Gabriel Milland, The Daily Express, 26 February 2003, p8; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

Saddam Hussein's claims to have no weapons of mass destruction were thrown into further doubt last night when UN weapons inspectors were handed a previously undeclared biological weapon. They found a freefall aerial bomb at a site where Iraq was known to have disposed of germ warfare weapons. But they only discovered the R-400 bomb after Iraq directed them to it. The process underlines fears that the UN inspectors' task is like searching for a needle in a haystack which can only be successful if Iraq cooperates. A UN spokesman in Baghdad told the *Daily Express*: "The bomb came from the Al Azizya firing range which inspectors were invited to excavate on February 19. Our people have been there for the last two days. But they didn't find the bomb. It was presented to us. It contained a biological agent. Iraq has claimed it destroyed its R-400 bombs unilaterally in 1991." The discovery came hours after Britain and America tabled a new UN resolution for war. But Saddam is known to have had 600 R-400 bombs with 157 unaccounted for. They can be filled with biological agents such as aflatoxin, which can cause liver cancer, and anthrax. The apparent cooperation came with Saddam still refusing to destroy his Al Samoud -2 missiles whose range violates UN resolutions. Chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said there had been no reply from the Iraqi government to the Al Samoud-2 destruction order. But Dr. Blix described the moves over the R-400 bomb as "positive" and said they needed to be discussed further. "there is one letter in which they tell us that they have found a R-400 bomb containing liquid in a site which is known to us and at which they did dispose of biological weapons before. There is another letter that tells us that they have found some handwritten documents concerning the act of disposal of prohibited items in 1991. Now, all these have to be followed up but these are new elements." The new information emerged as Blix prepared to file a new report on the UN disarmament program by a week on Friday. His





findings could serve as an effective declaration of war by Britain and America--with or without the backing of a second UN resolution. [Full text. No attachment.]

UN Inspectors to Focus on Anthrax and VX in Iraq Next Week

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 25 February 2003; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

A United Nations team of experts is to begin checking in the next days whether Iraq has destroyed army supplies of anthrax and VX as alleged, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday. Hiro Ueki, spokesman for the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) said experts will arrive in Iraq on Sunday. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government claims to have destroyed the chemical and biological weapons in a pit during in 1991 and has called on the weapons inspectors to take samples of the earth to verify their claims. Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said the Iraqi leadership had presented documents containing information about anthrax and VX, the most lethal nerve gas agent, during his last visit to Baghdad. According to Blix, however, the documents did not contain any new evidence on the destruction of biological and chemical weapons. U.N. weapons inspectors visited at least 14 sites in Iraq on Tuesday including four near Baghdad in connection with the missile development program. The inspectors also visited a warehouse for insecticides in El Sueira, 50 km south of Baghdad, a fertilizer manufacturing plant in Shirgut in northern Iraq plus an agricultural faculty at Mosul university, 400km north of Baghdad. [Full text. No attachment.]

Baghdad Radio: Iraq, South Africa Begin Technical Meetings on WMD

Republic of Iraq Radio (Baghdad), 24 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID GMP20030224000156.

Iraqi-South African technical meetings began at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Discussions dealt with specific issues concerning joint expertise on eliminating weapons of mass destruction and procedures used to ascertain the means to close these files. The South African delegation to the meeting was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad and comprised several experts in the nuclear, chemical, biological, and missiles armament fields. The Iraqi delegation included Amir al-Sa'di, Dr. Ja'far Diya Ja'far, Major General Husam Muhammad Amin, and several experts from the Foreign Ministry and the National Monitoring Directorate. *Note: According to a news release of the South African Foreign Ministry, the South African delegates were: Deon Smit, General Manager: Acquisitions: Armscor; COL (Dr.) B. Steyn, Chemical and Biological Defense Advisor to the Surgeon General; Dr. Philip Coleman, Managing Director Protechnik (Protechnik is S. Africa's designated single small-scale facility under the CWC); Super Moloi, Presidential Support Group; Daan van Beek, Director, Nonproliferation and Space, Department of Trade and Industry; Peter Goosen, Chief Director, Peace and Security, Department of Foreign Affairs; and Tom Markram, Director, Peace and Security Department of Foreign Affairs.* [Full text. No attachment.]





United States Urged to Sign Nuclear Treaty

Ole Damkjaer, Berlingske Tidende (Copenhagen), 23 February 2003; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID EUP20030224000468, "Danish Foreign Minister Urges US Sign Nuclear Test Ban Treaty."

UN treaties against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are not being complied with. This should be rectified, according to Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller, who stresses that the United States should sign the nuclear test ban treaty.

While the Danish government prepares to support a U.S.-led war against Iraq and its weapons of mass destruction, Foreign Minister Moller (Conservative) urges the nations of the world, including the United States, to put their own houses in order and accede to the various UN treaties against nuclear bombs and biological and chemical weapons.

"The threat from weapons of mass destruction must be taken seriously, and there are several ways we can meet this threat. Missile defense is one of several possibilities. But first and foremost the international legal system in this area must be strengthened and complied with. The international agreements on arms reduction and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction are therefore of central importance," says Moller, who among other things urges the United States to sign the UN treaty banning nuclear testing.

"We want the test ban treaty to take effect quickly. This will require the approval of the United States, among others," the Foreign Minister states, with reference to the fact that ever since 1996 the Americans have refused to sign the treaty. The approval of the United States is decisive if the treaty is to have teeth. As long as the United States hesitates, other countries have an excuse to reject it. Thus the treaty has not been signed by nuclear powers China, India, Pakistan, and Israel either, as well as Iran, which is thought to have a nuclear weapons program.

Nor has the United States given final approval to the UN treaty that bans the proliferation of nuclear arms (the nonproliferation treaty, NPT). The same is true of Pakistan, India, and Israel, and in this area also Moller urges quick ratification by the United States.

The Foreign Minister's declaration comes at a time when there is fear of a nuclear arms race, in East Asia among other places, as a result of North Korea's now obvious concentration on nuclear weapons.

Moller's initiative also coincides with the fact that U.S. President Bush seems to be moving in the opposite direction. The United States has lowered the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons and allegedly plans to develop a new type of nuclear bomb.

At the same time the Foreign Minister advocates a stronger fight against the other forms of weapons of mass destruction.

"The conventions on biological and chemical weapons should be respected and strengthened. The European Union continues to put pressure on the countries that are blocking this. During its Presidency Denmark also pressured several of these countries directly on behalf of the EU," Moller states.

"We must make it crystal clear to the countries that have not complied with international commitments that we cannot accept their conduct. If the agreements are not complied with it creates uncertainty for everyone because some countries can use their weapons to blackmail the international community and,





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even worse, sell them to terrorist organizations. Lack of compliance must therefore have consequences," says the Foreign Minister.

The U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen did not wish to comment yesterday [22 February] on the statements from the Danish Foreign Minister.

